

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STOCKH 01067 01 OF 02 161147Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----005713 161153Z /11

R 160950Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3300
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1067

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS MORE SYMPATHY FOR US

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AN OPINION POLL CONDUCTED AT THE TIME OF SEPTEMBER 1976 ELECTIONS AND RECENTLY MADE PUBLIC SHOWS A TREND OF DECREASING HOSTILITY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES ALONG WITH INCREASING DISTRUST OF THE USSR. THE SURVEY WAS A REPETITION OF A STUDY MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH EARLIER ELECTIONS IN SWEDEN HELD IN 1973.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD DESCRIBE THE US AS A COUNTRY THAT CARRIES OUT A POLICY THAT "CONTINUOUSLY THREATENS PEACE" OR WHICH IS "OFTEN INCLINED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER STATES WITH MILITARY POWER," THE US WAS SO CHARACTERIZED BY 39 PERCENT OF THE 1976 SAMPLE AS OPPOSED TO 47 PERCENT OF THE 1973 ONE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PERCENTAGE OF SWEDES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STOCKH 01067 01 OF 02 161147Z

GIVING SUCH LABELS TO THE USSR INCREASED FROM 37 PERCENT IN 1973 TO 42 PERCENT IN 1976. IN CONTRAST, THE FIGURES FOR CHINA ARE 16 PERCENT FOR 1973 AND 18 PERCENT FOR 1976.

3. A CLEAR TREND WAS ALSO SEEN TOWARD A MORE PEACEFUL AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER A LESS PEACEFUL POLICY WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE COUNTRY IN QUESTION

AS COMPARED TO TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS PREVIOUSLY, 40 PERCENT OF THE SWEDES IN 1973, AS OPPOSED TO ONLY 15 PERCENT OF THOSE IN 1976 THOUGHT THAT US POLICY WAS INDEED LESS PEACEFUL THAN BEFORE. THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR THE USSR ARE 5 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 7 PERCENT IN 1976; FOR CHINA, THEY ARE 7 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 8 PERCENT IN 1976.

4. ASKED WHETHER THE US OR USSR CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO SWEDEN OR ARE "UNFRIENDLY, BUT NOT DIRECT THREAT," SOME 50 PERCENT OF THE SWEDISH RESPONDENTS REPLIED YES IN REGARD TO THE US IN 1973, AS OPPOSED TO ONLY 17 PERCENT IN 1976. THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES ARE 19 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 27 PERCENT IN 1976 FOR THE USSR, SHOWING INCREASED DISTRUST TOWARD THAT COUNTRY.

5. FINALLY, SOME 50 PERCENT OF THE 1973 SAMPLE AND 38 PERCENT OF THE 1976 GROUP HAD A "RATHER NEGATIVE" OR "VERY NEGATIVE" ATTITUDE TO THE INTERNAL CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN THE US; 59 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 66 PERCENT IN 1976 FELT THE SAME WAY TOWARD THE USSR, AND 27 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 31 PERCENT IN 1976 HAD SUCH ATTITUDES REGARDING CHINA.

6. ANOTHER WAY TO JUDGE THE STRUCTURE OF OPINIONS IS TO SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE COMBINE NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD BOTH SUPERPOWERS. IN THE FIRST GROUP, THOSE WHO ARE US SUPPORTERS AND CONSIDER THAT THE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STOCKH 01067 01 OF 02 161147Z

HAS A PEACEFUL POLICY WHEREAS THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT, 17 PERCENT OF THE SWEDES FROM 1973 AND 22 PERCENT OF THOSE FROM 1976 ARE REPRESENTED. THESE COME PREDOMINATELY FROM NON-SOCIALIST VOTERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE OLDER AGE BRACKETS. ADHERENTS OF THE MODERATE PARTY ARE ESPECIALLY STRONGLY REPRESENTED. IN THE SECOND GROUP, THE PRO-SOVIET SWEDES WHO SEE THE SOVIET UNION AS PEACEFUL AND THE US AS HOSTILE, 28 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION WAS REPRESENTED IN 1973 AS OPPOSED TO 18 PERCENT IN 1976. UNDERSTANDABLY, SUCH ATTITUDES ARE MOST COMMON AMONG COMMUNIST VOTERS. IN THE THIRD GROUP, THOSE WHO SEE BOTH SUPERPOWERS AS CARRYING OUT A PEACEFUL POLICY, THE PERCENTAGE INCREASED FROM 30 IN 1973 TO 33 IN 1976. ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WERE EQUALLY REPRESENTED EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNISTS, WHO WERE SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN THE NORM. FINALLY, THE DISILLUSIONED, WHO BELIEVE THAT NEITHER OF THE SUPERPOWERS CARRIES OUT A PEACEFUL POLICY, GREW FROM 25 PERCENT IN 1973 TO 27 PERCENT IN 1976. ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF THOSE DISILLUSIONED WITH THE POLICIES OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO CHINESE POLICY. END UNCLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STOCKH 01067 02 OF 02 161106Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----005341 161154Z /20

R 160950Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3301
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1067

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION FROM THE ABOVE STUDY IS ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF OLD, IT DOES POINT TO A GRADUAL RECOVERY OF ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1970S. TO BE SURE, EARLIER RESPONSES WERE COLORED BY THE POPULAR VIEW OF THE US SPREAD THROUGH THE LAST HALF OF THE 60S AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE 70S AS A GOLIATH BENT ON FORCING ITS WILL ON AN UNWILLING VIETNAMESE PEOPLE THROUGH BRUTE FORCE. ALSO, THE ENDING OF MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND SWEDEN AND THE RESTORATION OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAY BE SEEN TO HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE SHARPLY REDUCED PERCEPTION OF THE US AS A THREAT TO THAT COUNTRY. WHAT IS A CAUSE OF CONCERN, HOWEVER, IS THAT NEARLY TWO OUT OF FIVE SWEDES ARE STILL SEEN TO HAVE A BASICALLY HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD BOTH AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND TO DOMESTIC CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. IN THE EAST-WEST CONTEXT, IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT ONLY 22 PERCENT OF ALL SWEDES SHOW ATTITUDES WHICH ARE CLEARLY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STOCKH 01067 02 OF 02 161106Z

SUPPORTIVE OF A WESTERN POLITICAL ORIENTATION: POSITIVE

TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND NEGATIVE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION.
THUS, WHILE WE CAN TAKE HEART IN THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN
MADE IN REPAIRING THE AMERICAN IMAGE IN SWEDEN OVER THE PAST
FEW YEARS, WE MUST ALSO REALIZE THAT A GOOD DEAL REMAINS TO BE
DONE IN THIS AREA.

7. AN ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL BREAKDOWN OF ATTITUDES
TOWARD THE MAJOR POWERS IS CONTAINED IN SEPARATE AIRGRAM.
PERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH01067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780117-0150
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780358/aaaabwvx.tel
Line Count: 179
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58cfa1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3299644
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS MORE SYMPATHY FOR US
TAGS: SOPN, SW, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58cfa1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014